



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

---

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: May 13, 2004

Contact: Kasey Bensinger  
Phone: 919/733-5612

---

**GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS MAY 15 AS ARMED FORCES DAY**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today proclaimed May 15 as Armed Forces Day in North Carolina to honor the many contributions of the brave men and women in the armed forces.

“These men and women have dedicated their lives to serving our country,” Easley said. “Today, with thousands of North Carolina National Guard, Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard active and reserve forces serving at home and abroad, it is especially important to recognize the sacrifices they make each day and to continue to support our troops as they complete their missions. The military plays a vital role to local communities and economies and it is important that North Carolina remain the most military-friendly state in the nation.”

According to a recent study, the military sector contributes about \$18 billion to North Carolina’s economy. North Carolina is home to six major military installations and the Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City, which is now under the Department of Homeland Security. There are more than 110,000 active-duty service men and women stationed in our state, and currently more than 6,100 North Carolina National Guard and Reservists have been called to duty. There are 779,000 veterans residing in North Carolina.

**ARMED FORCES DAY**

**2004**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an *Armed Forces Day* to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days, stemming from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department – the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina continues a noble tradition of helping to provide for the “*common defense*” of our Nation; and